

JOINT RESOLUTION ON AMERICAN INDIAN HOLOCAUST**MEMORIAL MUSEUM**

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature strongly urges Congress to fund a National American Indian Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ strongly urges the United States Congress to take action to fund a commemorative monument to recognize these atrocities through an American Indian Holocaust Memorial Museum;
- ▶ strongly urges each of the states to pass a similar resolution; and
- ▶ strongly urges American Indian tribes to call upon Congress to fund the museum and to support similar resolutions in the states in which they reside.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, the indigenous peoples of this land are the original inhabitants of land that now constitute the United States;

WHEREAS, the definition of genocide is the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group;

WHEREAS, the definition of holocaust is a mass slaughter of people, especially through genocide;

WHEREAS, conservative estimates numbered the American Indian population in North America at approximately 10 million in 1500;

WHEREAS, by 1900, the American Indian population was reduced to barely 237,000;

WHEREAS, the means of this immense population reduction were caused intentionally

or by disease, which was intensified by forced migration, deprivation of nutrition, and neglect after relocation to unfamiliar, barren lands;

WHEREAS, American Indians were the subject of systemic federal policies that deprived them of land, liberty, livelihood, and life;

WHEREAS, once an expanding nation found attractive the land occupied by American Indians for centuries, the land was often simply taken, and frequently by force;

WHEREAS, American Indians, displaced by the taking of the lands of their fathers and mothers, then had their liberties further violated through forced relocation, including the young separated from their families to be sent away for schooling and assimilation;

WHEREAS, American Indian tribes that resisted relocation and land takings were subdued by force and were, in some instances, pursued to extinction;

WHEREAS, relocation stripped American Indians of the livelihoods they had made for centuries from their lands' often plentiful natural resources and forced them to scratch out a new life on lands with little value and few usable natural resources;

WHEREAS, American Indians today, as descendants of those against whom the original atrocities were perpetrated, have great resilience;

WHEREAS, through this resilience, American Indians continue to progress beyond the consequences of past atrocities;

WHEREAS, the many years of genocide against American Indians is a direct assault on all of humanity;

WHEREAS, establishing an American Indian Holocaust Memorial Museum would not only illuminate a vital chapter in American history, but would also implore that such a holocaust should never happen again; and

WHEREAS, establishing an American Indian Holocaust Memorial Museum would be an important step towards reconciliation and intergenerational healing from these atrocities:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah strongly urges the United States Congress to take action to fund a commemorative monument to recognize these atrocities through an American Indian Holocaust Memorial Museum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah strongly urges each of the states to pass a similar resolution urging the United States Congress to fund and construct an American Indian Holocaust Memorial Museum.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah strongly urges
64 each American Indian tribe to call upon the United States Congress to fund and construct an
65 American Indian Holocaust Memorial Museum and to support the resolutions for this purpose
66 in the states in which the tribes reside.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of
68 the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, the
69 Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
70 Representatives, the chair of the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the House
71 Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs, the
72 leader of each legislative house in each of the other states, to each tribe, with assistance from
73 American Indian resources, and to the members of Utah's congressional delegation.